

24 Jan 58

"My language facility shows progress although I must say again as I did in my last letter and probably will in my next that the longer I study Chinese the more difficult and endless appears mastery of the language. Several of us here at the school are beginning to entertain the proposition that perhaps the language is just not suited for communication. At least it often seems that way. We do have a very comprehensive curriculum which at present includes several hours each day reading various Chinese newspapers, Chinese Communist texts such as New Democracy, etc., and more recently working over Mao Tse Tung's famous speech in February of "Let a hundred flowers bloom, etc." This last has the added difficulty of being written with the simplified characters presently widely used in Communist China. In addition we have an economic seminar once a week in which we discuss in Chinese China's economic problems, interpreting sessions, and some slight study of classical Chinese texts such as the dynastic histories. When I first arrived I was put in some classes with students who had been here 7 or 8 months but that didn't work out too well so now I have individual instruction except for some few classes. I am quite pleased with this schedule and feel that I am doing better than under the previous arrangement."

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*Excerpt from letter to L.S.M. from [redacted]
giving some insight on the activities in the
Chinese language school of Formosa.
Forwarded to [redacted] for info on
24 Jan. 58 by [redacted]*

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